

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated.

OBJECTIONS TO THE DRAWINGS

The objection to the drawings is respectfully traversed. The capacitor array 154 of FIG. 6 was changed to 160 in the last response, as suggested by the Examiner in the first office action. Applicants seek clarification on Examiner's suggestion to further modify FIG. 6, step 214, to "the digital switched capacitor 204".

SUPPORT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Support for amended claims 1, 9 and 10 can be found in the drawings as originally filed (for example, in FIG. 1), on page 5, lines 14-17, and on page 6. As such, no new matter has been added.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claims 1-7 and 9-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Cranford '441 is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn.

Cranford discloses an integrated adaptive cable equalizer using a continuous-time filter (Title).

In contrast, claim 1 of the present invention provides an apparatus comprising a first circuit, a second circuit and a third

circuit. The first circuit may be configured to filter an analog input signal in an analog domain in response to one or more control signals. The second circuit may be configured to convert the analog input signal to a first digital signal. The third circuit may be configured to generate a second digital signal and the control signals in response to the first digital signal. The third circuit may also be configured to deliberately skew the analog input signal to partially compensate for frequency dependent effects associated with a transmission medium. Claims 9 and 10 provide similar limitations.

Cranford fails to disclose a third circuit configured to deliberately skew an analog input signal, as presently claimed. Claims 1, 9 and 10 discuss **deliberately skewing** the analog input signal to partially compensate for frequency dependent effects. Cranford discloses adjusting transfer characteristics of the first circuit to **minimize** distortion (see Cranford column 4, lines 30-38). One skilled in the art would understand that deliberately skewing a signal (e.g., the claimed analog input signal) to accomplish something (e.g., to compensate for frequency effects) is different than minimizing distortion as shown in Cranford. Cranford is silent regarding deliberately skewing to compensate for frequency dependent effects, as presently claimed. As such, Cranford does not disclose each and every element of the claimed invention and the rejection should be withdrawn.

More specifically, the Office Action asserts that "distortion" and "skew" have similar meanings. However, the Office

Action misuses the term to incorrectly apply to several elements of the claims. In particular, assuming *arguendo* that distortion and skew have similar meanings, Cranford is still silent regarding a third circuit configured to deliberately skew the analog input signal to compensate for frequency dependent effects associated with a transmission medium, as presently claimed. Instead, the Office Action states (page 3, paragraph 4), that Cranford adjusts the transfer characteristics of the first circuit compensating for loss and distortion of the signal caused by the transmission medium. In Cranford, the circuits compensate for distortion. In the present invention, deliberate skewing is used to compensate for frequency dependent effects. Clearly Cranford fails to disclose or suggest such deliberate skewing, as presently claimed. As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Cranford is silent on a third circuit configured to generate a second digital signal as presently claimed. In particular, Cranford discloses a continuous-time filter 102 generating an equalized signal 114 in the analog domain (see Cranford, FIG. 1 and column 4, lines 42-43). Clearly, Cranford fails to disclose a third circuit configured to generate a second digital signal. As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over Cranford.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Cranford in view of English is respectfully traversed and should be withdrawn. Claim 8 depends on claim 1, which is now believed to be allowable.

As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited references and the rejection should be withdrawn.

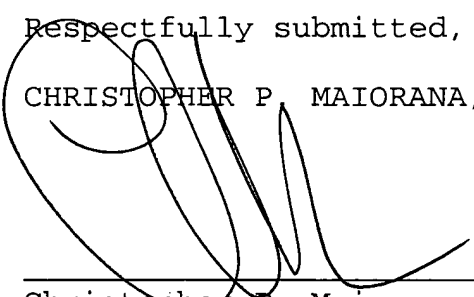
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative at 586-498-0670 should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge Deposit Account No. 12-2252.

Respectfully submitted,

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